Abuse of drug

*253. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that Phensedyl cough syrup produced by one of India's major pharma firms are being smuggled into Bangladesh on a very extensive scale for non-medicinal use with full knowledge of the firm;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to stop such gross abuse of drug and curb smuggling activities on the Indo-Bangla border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) There are reports of smuggling of Phensedyl, a codeine based cough syrup into Bangladesh. The possibility of it being used for non-medicinal use cannot be ruled out. Seizures of 1,70, 026 bottles of Phensedyl during 2003-2004 and 2,39,931 bottles during 2004-05 have been reported in the Indo-Bangladesh Border Region.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to stop such' smuggling of contraband across the Indo-Bangladesh Border. These include strengthening of border management by construction of border roads; security fencing, flood lighting and enhanced surveillance along the international borders by patrolling and conducting special operations; upgradation of intelligence network; use of night vision devices and coordination with various enforcement agencies of the State and Central Government.

Power crisis in the country

† *254. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic and industrial consumers as well as the farmers are being affected due to shortage of electricity in different parts of the country; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.